

Arizona News Release

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Press Release Announcement - April 21, 2006 - For Immediate Release

Arizona Cattle on Feed Inventory Up 8 Percent From Last Year

On April 1, 2006, Arizona had 351,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 8 percent from a year ago and unchanged from last month. Placements totaled 30,000 head, 3,000 head more than a year ago. During March, 28,000 head were marketed, up 4,000 head from last March.

On April 1, 2006, California had 535,000 head of cattle on feed for the slaughter market, up 7 percent from last year, but down 15,000 from last month. Placements totaled 59,000 head, down 6,000 head from last year. During March, 68,000 head were marketed, down 2,000 head from last March.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.8 million head on April 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above April 1, 2005 and 10 percent above April 1, 2004. This is the highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.74 million steers and steer calves, up 11 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.0 million head, up 5 percent from 2005.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.84 million, 5 percent above 2005 and 1 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.75 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 342,000, 700-799 pounds were 565,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 550,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.96 million, down slightly from 2005 and slightly below 2004.

Other disappearance totaled 90,000 during March, 32 percent above 2005 and 34 percent above 2004.

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